Annual REPORT

LEGAL SERVICES SOCIETY

of British Columbia

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Mandate

The Legal Services Society was established on October 1, 1979, when the provincial legislature unanimously passed the Legal Services Society Act. It gave the Society a mandate to provide legal representation and legal education to the people of British Columbia.

The Act says that the Society shall ensure:

3. (1) (a) that services ordinarily provided by a lawyer are afforded to individuals who would not otherwise receive them because of financial or other reasons

and

(b) education, advice and information about the law are provided for the people of British Columbia

(2) The Society shall ensure that legal services are available for a qualifying individual who:

(a) is a defendant in criminal proceedings that could lead to his (or her) imprisonment

(b) may be imprisoned or confined through civil proceedings

(c) is or may be a party to a proceeding respecting a domestic dispute that affects his (or her) physical or mental safety or health or that of his (or her) children

or

(d) has a legal problem that threatens

- his (or her) family's physical or mental safety or health
- his (or her) ability to feed, clothe and provide shelter for himself (or herself) and his (or her) dependents
- his (or her) livelihood

The Year in Review and the Annual Report were coordinated and written by Gayla Reid. They were edited by Cy-Thea Sand and designed by Helen Krayenhoff in the Publications Branch.

The Year in Review is a summary of Legal Services Society activities for the year 1989-1990. The official Annual Report, including audited financial statements, is available only after it has been tabled in the legislature.

To obtain a copy of the most recent Annual Report, write to:
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Legal Services Society
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Message from the Chair

The Legal Services Society marked its tenth anniversary in 1989-90.

In 1979 the Legal Services Society Act was passed unanimously by the provincial legislature. Its enactment merged the existing Legal Aid Society and the Legal Services Commission into an integrated system with a mandate to provide information about the law to all of the people of British Columbia and to provide representation in criminal and civil matters to those who could not otherwise afford it. The Act is designed to ensure access to justice to everyone in the province. It enshrines equality before the law as a civil right in British Columbia.

The Legal Services Society Act is unique in that it is the result of a partnership between the government and the independent bar of B.C. The Law Society and the government each have seven appointments to the board. The implications are more than just cosmetic.

In a number of important respects, the board is exempt from the degree of accountability required of "government" agencies and boards. It ensures a degree of independence to the board which provides an important degree of protection for the rights defined in the Act.

These rights have been affirmed and extended by the courts in a number of significant decisions over the past ten years.

In the fiscal year 1989-90, there were some significant advances in the range of services the Society has been able to deliver. The Ministry of Attorney General — which provides 84.3 per cent of the Society's funding — responded to the recommendations contained in the Access to Justice Report. It increased funding to allow for expansion of duty counsel and for the reintroduction of flexible eligibility guidelines for legal aid in both criminal and family matters.

While these advances were welcome, the fact remains that the government has not approached the levels of funding necessary to implement the recommendations of the 1984 Task Force on Legal Aid. To a degree that is quite unacceptable, legal representation is possible only because lawyers continue to work for rates that often do not cover their overheads.

The civil (non-matrimonial) mandate is not even close to being adequately served. These areas must be priorities in the very near future.

We also want to improve our services to native people, both in terms of representation services and public legal education services. We are committed to ensuring that native community law offices retain the responsibility for defining the nature of the service and delivering it.

We applaud the attention being given by the Ministry of Attorney General to the area of public legal education, including funding support for the Law Courts Education Society and for programs aimed at members of the multicultural community and disadvantaged groups. We look forward to continuing to work closely with other service providers in the area of public legal education.

At the end of this year we were happy to take part in the Ministry of Attorney General's Public Legal Education Review, which looked at the public legal education and information programs throughout B.C. We are confident that the partnership and cooperation which already exists among the various deliverers of public legal education will be enhanced as a result of this review process.

This year has seen a continuation of our close relationship, through the Legal Aid Liaison Committee, with the British Columbia Law Society and British Columbia Branch of the Canadian Bar Association. The solid support which the committee members bring to our vision of legal services remains invaluable.

Members of the committee, myself and the executive director took part in productive meetings with the attorney general during the year to discuss future directions and funding support for the Society.

During the year the board of the Society began a strategic planning process, which we expect to develop further in the coming year. This process will permit us to make better decisions about our priorities and to allocate resources in the best possible way.

I want to express my appreciation, both personally and on behalf of the board, for the contribution that the staff have made during the year to the important work of providing legal services to the people of British Columbia.

Mark McEwan
Chair

Report from the Executive Director

The mission of the Legal Services Society is to ensure equal access to justice and the law for all persons in the province of British Columbia. To accomplish this, the Society must be able to provide adequate legal services to the working poor. In this respect the year has been one of modest gains.

By the end of the year under review, we were able to move to a more realistic financial eligibility standard for all matters.

A person who applies for legal aid will no longer be automatically refused because his or her income exceeds the poverty guidelines. He or she will now be assessed on the basis of whether or not he or she can afford to pay legal fees.

Other achievements during the year include:

- a 5 per cent tariff increase on 1 October 1989
- the expansion of duty counsel to most criminal courts throughout the province
- a commitment to providing more services in the civil non-family area

While these measures do not deal adequately with the needs for increased funding — recognized by the 1984 Task Force Report on Legal Services and the Justice Reform Committee Report — they are significant steps forward.

This year also saw the introduction of two new services as a result of court decisions.

Early in 1990 we made legal aid services available to people who could be facing deportation as a result of an immigration inquiry. These new services were introduced following the December 1989 decision by the Supreme Court of B.C. that Mr. Gonzalez-Davi, a Convention refugee, had the right to legal aid under section 3 of the Legal Services Society Act.

This brings British Columbia into line with the other provinces in Canada — such as Ontario and Quebec — which receive the greatest numbers of refugees.

In February 1990 the Supreme Court of Canada ruled in the Brydges case that a person's right under the Charter to retain and instruct counsel includes the right to have immediate access to legal advice. We are putting this duty counsel service into place and are consulting with members of the bar and the Ministry of Attorney General about permanent arrangements.

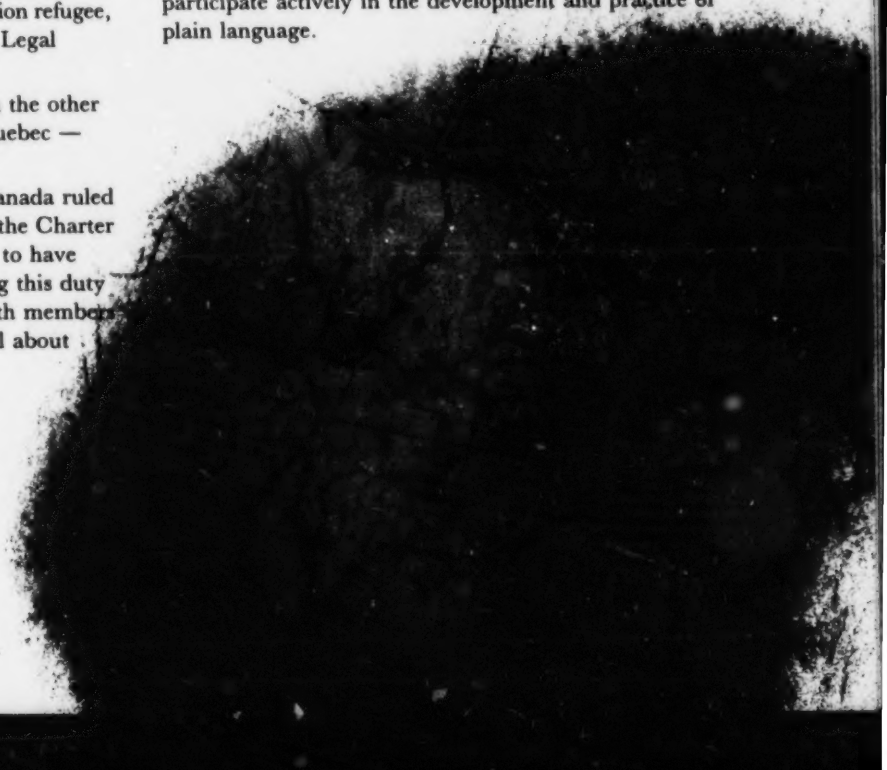
We have been able to increase our staff in the Gastown, Maple Ridge, Victoria, Prince George, Campbell River, Nelson and Surrey offices. In addition, we re-opened two offices closed during the restraint period in 1983: the Maple Ridge and Cranbrook offices, which are both community law offices administered by their own boards of directors.

This year has also seen the development of plans for the expansion of services to native people in the Fort St. James area, the expansion of public legal education project funding to native groups, and the provision of funding to the Westminster community law office to provide satellite services in Port Coquitlam.

Cooperation with other service providers continues to grow in importance, as service delivery becomes both more extensive and more complex. This year we worked closely with the Ministry of Attorney General, the Ministry of Social Services and Housing, and Family Court Counsellors in an effort to provide better information to people about their rights and the ways in which the various services can be accessed.

We maintained a close working relationship with other practitioners in the field of public legal education and information. The review of public legal education and information, conducted by the Ministry of Attorney General, provided us with an opportunity to explain our partnership role in the delivery of legal information services, and to express our support for consultation and coordination in the development of new services.

This year we were particularly pleased to note the growth of plain language initiatives. We will continue to participate actively in the development and practice of plain language.



As in previous years, the contribution of the legal profession remained the single most important factor in our ability to provide legal services. Members of the bar once more provided legal aid in family and criminal matters for a reduced fee, and in civil non-family cases for no fee at all.

Unfortunately the inadequate tariff of fees paid to lawyers has seriously eroded the private bar's ability to take legal aid cases, especially in the area of family law. Attempts to redress this situation are a priority for the coming year.

Throughout the year the Legal Aid Liaison Committee — made up of representatives from the Law Society and the Canadian Bar Association — devoted a great deal of time to supporting the work of the Legal Services Society and on behalf of myself and all the members of the Society's staff, I thank them sincerely.

We look forward to a new decade in the delivery of legal services to the people of this province. There are, as always, urgent concerns about the level of funding. We remain fortunate, however, in having strong, sustained support, both from the community and from the legal profession.

Jack Olsen
Executive Director

Board of Directors 1989/1990

Mark McEwan, Chair
The Honourable B. Cohen
Her Honour Judge Loretta Chaperon
His Honour Judge William Kitchen, Vice-Chair
His Honour Judge William Ostler
George Coutlee
Len Doust
Kirsti Gill
A.G.Henderson
Lois Hollstedt
Gerald Kambeitz
T.A. LaLiberte
David Rice
Charlotte Smith

The Legal Services Society Act provides for the appointment of 14 members to the Board of Directors, seven appointed by the Lieutenant Governor in Council and seven appointed by the Law Society of British Columbia.

Retrospective

Legal Services celebrates ten years of service 1979-1989

Where we've come from and where we've been are explored in the following special report. The first part describes how the Legal Services Society was created out of two very different organizations — the Legal Aid Society and the Legal Services Commission. Also included is a brief review of our first decade.

To begin the story, David Tupper QC, a veteran of legal aid and a member of the Legal Services Society's first board, describes the very early years of legal aid in B.C.: "In the early 1950s when I was a young lawyer, all legal aid was entirely volunteered by lawyers through their local bar associations.

"In Vancouver we organized panels which sat at the Court House until late on Wednesday nights taking applications from a long line-up of people made up mostly of deserted wives.If individuals needed more than just legal advice, we farmed their cases out to our friends.

"This worked well enough in civil cases because a lawyer could include them in his or her office routine without too much economic impact. But criminal cases — which often required long visits to Oakalla prison — were not so easy for young lawyers unless they had the backing of a large firm.

"Finally in the mid-1960s, the government began to pay a small honorarium of $30 a day in criminal cases administered through the Law Society."

Because this service grew and grew, the Law Society took the next logical step: in 1970 it set up the Legal Aid Society to administer a program of legal advice and counsel to people who could not afford to pay a private lawyer.

Meanwhile, across town . . .

The Legal Services Commission was busy setting up education and information programs, using a community-based, community-controlled model.

The Legal Services Commission had grown out of the Justice Development Commission set up in 1973 by the government of the day to plan the coordinated development of public legal services. The Justice Development Commission had examined the best ways to deliver legal services to disadvantaged people in a study called the *Delivery of Legal Services Project*.

This project was headed by Peter Leask and produced the Leask Report. It describes a decentralized model that allows each community to choose the type of legal service it needs. This is the model the Legal Services Commission adopted when it was set up in 1975.

Bryan Ralph, the Society's first Executive Director

Would the two organizations ever meet?

Over the years the Legal Aid Society and the Legal Services Commission had viewed one another with less than enthusiasm. The Legal Aid Society was a product of the legal profession. It expressed the profession's conviction that equal representation is the dynamic that holds the adversary system together.

The Legal Services Commission developed from a different vision of

public legal services. Their vision was not based on the traditional staff lawyer/tariff model, but looked upon schools, libraries, community groups and native communities as partners in the delivery of legal information and education services.

The Legal Aid Society – the older and larger of the two – had provided legal aid. But when the Legal Services Commission was set up in 1975 it was given a statutory mandate to plan the development of legal services in the province and to fund organizations willing to deliver them. It thus became the funder of the Legal Aid Society.

Because of its aims, broad experience and provincial scope, the Legal Aid Society felt responsible for the delivery of legal aid services. The Commission, given its legislative mandate, felt the same way.

Bryan Williams QC, who was chairperson of the Legal Aid Society at the time says: "We saw the Legal Services Commission getting more and more into areas where we were working. The unbelievable situation seemed to be developing in which the two groups were competing to provide a free legal service. It was the Legal Aid Society's opinion that we simply could not afford the luxury of two autonomous legal aid networks."

Mr. Justice Duncan Shaw comments on the drama that was unfolding: "When I became chairperson of the Legal Services Commission, relations between it and the Legal Aid Society were not good. The Legal Aid Society did not appreciate having to come to us for funds and understandably so. They did not look upon the services we were providing as essential services.

"I remember being in Halifax at a conference of provincial legal aid planners and taking the opportunity to talk with Bryan Ralph and Jack Olsen from Legal Aid about the rivalry between the two organizations and what could be done about it. Bryan Williams and I also talked.

"What emerged from these discussions was a common resolve to amalgamate. Bryan took the idea back to his board and I took it to the commissioners. The commissioners didn't like it. The feeling was that we ought not let ourselves be taken over by the Legal Aid Society. The Legal Aid Society board did not want the Legal Services Commission to take them over. But in time, people took a broader view."

Bryan Williams adds: "At first there was quite a bit of opposition to the idea of the merger from the Legal Aid side. But what did we have to lose except a bit of empire? I felt that we could learn from each other, but my motives weren't completely unselfish, either. I felt that by merging we would be closer to the people in government and that would help ensure a more reasonable level of funding."

1977 Legal Services Commission hearings on the delivery of Legal Services

The Attorney General at the time, Garde Gardom, embraced the idea and drew up an amalgamation proposal. A steering committee of four commissioners, four members of the Legal Aid Society board, and the executive directors of the two organizations was formed in late 1978 to draft the new Act and plan for its implementation.

Given the rocky relations of the past, the potential for animosity was certainly there. But the merger went more smoothly than anyone would have dared predict. Once the two sides made up their minds to join together, amalgamation proved to be a brilliant strategic success.

On 1 October 1979 the Legal Aid Society and the Legal Services Commission gave up their old names and moved in together at 555 West Hastings to begin a new life as the Legal Services Society. The board's first chairperson was Duncan Shaw, from the Commission side, while the first executive director was Bryan Ralph, who had succeeded Frank Maczko as executive director of the Legal Aid Society.

Why did the merger work so well?

David Tupper explains: "The major reason was Bryan Ralph who is a highly skilled and dedicated administrator, inspired and efficient.

"At first those of us from the Legal Aid side had to be educated as to the value of providing legal information services. Before the amalgamation we had been inclined to resent the expenditures of money – we were all pretty hard up – on something that was not a direct legal service.

"But when we had to rub shoulders with the extremely dedicated people from the Commission, we learned that an integrated approach to providing legal services is vital, partly because of the direct benefit to members of the public and partly because a more educated public brings more pressure to bear in demanding adequate legal services."

Duncan Shaw adds: "Amalgamation harnessed the strengths of the two former organizations. I felt that each organization had its inherent weaknesses. The weakness of the Legal Services Commission was that it had very few employees; it didn't have a large constituency throughout the province who worked for it directly and knew it and were loyal to it. The Legal Aid Society did.

"The Legal Aid Society had to go to the Commission for money, and it didn't have community-based education and information programs.

"By bringing the two together we were able to build a very broad constituency. We had one solid organization able to deal with government. I felt that was very important. It provided strength and power — power in the sense of having a lot of people out there backing you in what you are doing. In terms of funding it gave us a better chance to fight off financial disaster. Without amalgamation, I'm convinced, the cutbacks of 1982-84 would have been a great deal worse.

"Amalgamation was very important in another way as well, and that's independence. When you've got a deep and loyal constituency rooted in every community throughout the province, you've got a better chance, because of the power that gives, to protect your employees and the people you fund when they take on work of controversial nature, which may involve attacking government itself, as in a welfare case, or may involve unpopular causes on behalf of people charged with crime."

Duncan Shaw, the Society's first Chairperson

A time of expansion

The years 1979 to 1982 were a time of expansion for the newly created Legal Services Society. During these years a variety of integrated programs were developed across the province. Through both pro bono and bar-subsidized tariff programs, members of the bar continued to actively support the provision of legal aid to those who could not afford counsel.

In the criminal area, duty counsel services were maintained in many courts. People who were likely to be incarcerated as a result of a conviction were provided counsel if they were financially unable to retain a lawyer.

Courtworker services were provided through the Native Courtworker and Counselling Association and the Elizabeth Fry Society. Legal aid was available for appeals in meritorious (deserving) cases. Some special services were developed for inmates of prisons and mental institutions.

In the family law area, counsel was provided for divorce and other Supreme Court matters. In Family Court, the Attorney General provided counsel for applicants while the Legal Services Society provided counsel for respondents.

In other civil law areas, representation was available through branch offices or community law offices, and through pro bono programs offered by the bar.

In 1981, the Native Legal Task Force began developing recommendations to the Legal Services Society Board about the need to control, develop and provide legal services at a local level. The report, finalized in 1983, stressed that programs and services for native communities must be controlled by native communities themselves.

Legal information became much more widely available. Legal reference collections in public libraries were started or substantially augmented and courthouse libraries were developed. The quality of legal education in schools was enhanced by teacher seminars and the production of materials focused on B.C. law. Information materials were produced and public legal education programs were developed at the community level.

Then recession hit.

1982-1984: years of cutbacks

Between 1982 and 1984 the province was caught in a severe recession and the government – as the Society's major funder – implemented a series of cutbacks. Offices were closed and staff laid off.

David Tupper, who in 1982 was the Society's chairperson, says: "During restraint we were fortunate in having Steve Owen as our executive director. When the financial situation got really bitter he had the guts and the drive to cope with a very difficult situation.

"At that time too, when it looked as if the door we had opened on legal aid was about to slam shut, we were very fortunate to have the assistance of the Law Foundation. It came to our aid with a much-needed supplementary grant. And of course we relied tremendously upon the sustained support of the bar and the Law Society."

The crisis consumed everyone's time and energy. In 1983, for example, the Benchers of the Law Society spent more time on legal aid than on any other issue. Their resolutions of that year were, without a doubt, instrumental in turning the tide.

Also of central importance was the formation of the Legal Aid Liaison Committee, with representatives from the Canadian Bar Association, the Law Society and the Legal Services Society. This committee, which continues today, provided effective liaison with senior levels of government during the period of restraint.

Most crucial of all, however, was the Mountain decision.

In November of 1983 the British Columbia Court of Appeal unanimously upheld a B.C. Supreme Court order which required the Legal Services Society to provide legal aid to Richard Mountain. Mountain, who faced the probability of a jail term if convicted, had been denied legal aid because of the cuts to summary conviction coverage.

"It is not acceptable that the legal system serves only those who can afford it."

The Court said: ". . . if a person's liberty, safety, health or livelihood are in real jeopardy, the Society is required to make legal services available."

As a consequence of this decision, some services were restored.

In 1984, two other events affirmed the essential nature of the services delivered under the Society's legislative mandate and provided a much-needed boost to morale.

First, the Justice Department's Evaluation of Legal Aid defined the services provided by the Society as essential and emphasized that they needed to be expanded in order to meet minimum needs.

Secondly, the Attorney General's Task Force on Public Legal Services unanimously affirmed the essential nature of the services and found that the level of coverage for every type of urgent legal problem was inadequate to ensure that minimum needs were met.

The Task Force made a number of far-reaching recommendations. It found that family law services and services to native communities were areas of particular concern and recommended that those two take first priority.

The Task Force also argued strongly for the adoption of flexible eligibility tests and the introduction of a more realistic tariff.

1984-1990: Task Force recommendations remain a goal

The 1988 Justice Reform Committee report, *Access to Justice*, began its comments on legal aid with the following words: "The recommendations of the 1984 British Columbia Task Force on Public Legal Services urgently require implementation." The Committee noted that the submissions made at its hearings overwhelmingly called for immediate fulfilment of the Task Force recommendations.

The Attorney General has endorsed the recommendations of the Justice Reform Committee and made a commitment to increased legal aid funding to allow for expanded services. As a result, duty counsel services have been expanded to all criminal courts and a more flexible eligibility test for family and criminal matters was implemented in April 1990.

Although increases to the tariff were effected in 1987, 1988 and 1989, the legal profession continues to subsidize the provision of legal aid services on an inadequate tariff.

Bryan Williams, one of the drafters of the Act, sums up the feelings of all of those who were involved in the process of shaping the Society: "My one disappointment has been that the Society never achieved a level of funding necessary to truly provide legal services for disadvantaged people."

Despite urgent concerns about the level of funding, the Legal Services Society looks forward to the 90s and the challenges of delivering legal services to the people of British Columbia.

Client services

Legal aid

Legal aid is a service for low-income people in B.C. who have an urgent legal problem.

Who can get legal aid?

In B.C., under the Legal Services Society Act, you have a right to legal help for serious legal problems if you cannot afford a lawyer.

You can get a lawyer or paralegal to represent you if you cannot afford a lawyer, and if your problem is covered by legal aid.

If you do not qualify to have a lawyer represent you, the staff of the offices will give you information and advice. Sometimes you can use that information and advice to take legal steps on your own.

What are the financial rules?

The financial rules changed in 1989-90. Under the old rules you had to have an income below the Statistics Canada poverty guidelines. At the end of the year, however, we reintroduced a flexible standard for eligibility. This means we look at your income and assets to see if you qualify. The test is: can you afford a lawyer without impairing your ability to feed, clothe and house yourself and your dependants?

What problems can you get legal aid for?

If you are financially eligible, you can get legal aid for:

- a criminal charge which might lead to imprisonment
- a family problem, such as a custody or access dispute
- urgent legal problems that jeopardize your livelihood, health, safety, sustenance or shelter
- problems under the B.C. Human Rights Act
- refugee determinations at the second hearing (the federal government pays for the first hearing).

Demand for Legal Aid

1989/1990

Type of legal problem	Total number of applications	Number accepted	Percentage accepted
Criminal	39,658	30,134	76.0%
Family	24,227	15,163	62.6%
Civil	22,284	5,252	23.6%
Total	86,169	50,549	58.7%

1988/1989

Type of legal problem	Total number of applications	Number accepted	Percentage accepted
Criminal	37,967	28,628	75.4%
Family	22,809	12,405	54.4%
Civil	21,113	5,045	23.9%
Total	81,889	46,078	56.3%

Where does someone apply for legal aid?

A person can go to one of four types of offices: a Legal Services Society Branch office, a community law office, a native community law office, or an area director. Area directors are lawyers in private practice in small communities who act as agents of the Legal Services Society to take family and criminal legal aid applications.

You fill out an application in the office. The office staff will determine if you qualify for legal aid services. If you are not eligible to get a lawyer on legal aid, the office staff will provide advice and information. They will explain what other help you can get in the community and will give you information pamphlets to help you proceed on your own.

A list of all the branch offices, community law offices, native community law offices and area directors is at the back of this Year in Review.

Who provides the legal aid?

If someone is eligible for help with a criminal, family, refugee or Human Rights Act problem, the office sends them to a lawyer in private practice. The lawyer acts for the client as he or she would for any client, and sends the bill to the Legal Services Society.

Branch office and community law office staff handle cases on Workers' Compensation, UIC and MSSH appeals, foreclosure defences, etc. If the office staff do not have time to help, they will look for a lawyer in private practice who will take the case on without charge.

1989/1990 Client Services Highlights

Refugees need legal aid

The legal needs which the Society aims to meet reflect wider, social needs. In our province, for example, the needs of refugees have become more acute over the past few years. A British Columbia Supreme Court case, *Gonzalez-Davi v. the Legal Services Society*, in December 1989, ruled that the Society had an obligation under its statute to provide legal aid to a Guatemalan refugee who was facing a deportation hearing.

The Society has now introduced legal aid coverage for everyone who needs it at an immigration hearing.

Advice upon arrest

Another landmark decision, with important consequences for the Society, was the February 1990 *Brydges* decision. In that decision, the Supreme Court of Canada ruled that the police must tell people upon arrest that they have a right to talk with a lawyer before they make any statement.

As a result, we introduced a plan which provides legal aid for people to get this advice. We are working on long-term plans to meet this need on an ongoing basis.

Pat Johnson and David Miller in the Nelson office

Duty counsel services extended

During the year we began the process of extending duty counsel services to all the criminal courts in the province. Duty counsel are lawyers available in the courts to advise accused persons who are being held in custody. The duty counsel lawyer gives advice about charges, court procedures, and the right to apply for legal aid.

Family coverage

In 1989 coverage was extended to all financially eligible people in custody matters, and to people who fall outside the usual eligibility criteria if the case is urgent.

This means that we are able to provide legal aid to more people. The number of people we accepted for legal aid in family matters rose by 22.2 per cent as compared with a 5.3 per cent increase for criminal matters.

However, this increase in service complicated by the fact that the tariff d to lawyers who do legal aid for ly cases remains low. Currently e are more people needing legal n family matters than we have ers able to provide it. Developing ions to this problem is one of the enges we face in the upcoming

During 89-90 we carried out two pilot projects in the family law area, with the goal of improving and increasing the availability of family law services. In Prince Rupert and Surrey, paralegals provided duty counsel services at family court. These pilot projects are now being evaluated. We hope that the final outcome will be better services to family law clients throughout the province.

We also worked throughout the year with the Family Maintenance Enforcement Project and the Ministry of Social Services and Housing for the extension and integration of services available in family court.

Appeals

The Legal Services Society funds appeal cases if the applicant is financially eligible and the case is likely to succeed. In 1989-90 the Society authorized 842 appeals.

Fees paid to lawyers

The private bar continues to subsidize the cost of legal aid, providing services at rates far below the standard. The tariff of fees for family matters is particularly inadequate. We were able to increase the tariff by 5 per cent in October 1989, but that really only takes care of inflation. The low level of the tariff remains a major problem.

Auditor's Report

To the Members of the Board of Directors,
Legal Services Society, and

To the Attorney General,
Province of British Columbia

I have examined the balance sheet of the Legal Services Society as at March 31, 1990 and the statement of accumulated income over expenditures and statement of income and expenditures for the year then ended. My examination was made in accordance with generally accepted auditing standards, and accordingly included such tests and other procedures as I considered necessary in the circumstances.

In my opinion, these financial statements present fairly the financial position of the Society as at March 31, 1990 and the results of its operations for the year then ended in accordance with generally accepted accounting principles applied on a basis consistent with that of the preceding year.

Victoria, British Columbia
June 1, 1990

George L. Morfitt, F.C.A.
Auditor General

Legal Services Society

Balance Sheet

As At March 31, 1990

		1990	1989
Assets			
Cash and term deposits		$3,834,622	$5,720,933
Accounts receivable	- related parties	495,271	224,259
	- other	501,722	278,877
Prepaid expenses		71,711	72,298
		$4,903,326	$6,296,367
Liabilities			
Accounts payable	- general	$ 450,169	$ 495,778
	- tariff	3,394,242	3,202,746
Professional staff benefits plan		343,148	272,242
Deferred income (note 4)		206,274	1,758,953
		4,393,833	5,729,719
Accumulated Income over Expenditures			
Reserve for tariff expenditures		509,493	566,648
		$4,903,326	$6,296,367

The accompanying notes are an integral part of these financial statements.

Approved by the Board:

M. McEwan
Chairperson

D. Rice
Director

Legal Services Society

Statement of Income and Expenditures

For the Year Ended March 31, 1990

		1990	1989
Income			
Grants			
	Province of British Columbia	$27,641,929	$21,762,097
	Law Foundation	3,042,885	3,000,000
	Notary Foundation	1,322,328	541,844
		32,007,142	25,303,941
Other Income			
	Interest	711,171	545,611
	Legal costs recovered from clients	101,151	110,588
	Publications	11,556	20,767
	Miscellaneous	384	3,499
	Donated services (note 3)	260,264	228,701
		1,084,526	909,166
		33,091,668	26,213,107
Expenditures			
	Area directors	106,828	137,412
	Board expenses	53,161	28,680
	Computer	169,232	229,455
	Duty counsel	746,448	690,904
	Grants and contracted services	3,345,223	2,582,884
	Libraries	126,941	119,549
	Miscellaneous	88,798	101,596
	Office	942,185	805,322
	Premises	587,374	496,652
	Publications	104,263	83,385
	Salaries and benefits	6,091,281	4,986,069
	Tariffs	19,950,642	16,286,549
	Transcripts	542,426	302,630
	Travel	294,021	229,247
		33,148,823	27,080,334
Excess of Expenditures over Income for the Year		$ 57,155	$ 867,227

Legal Services Society

Statement of Accumulated Income over Expenditures

For The Year Ended March 31, 1990

Unappropriated Accumulated Income over Expenditures	1990	1989
Balance - beginning of year	$ —	$ —
Excess of expenditures over income for the year	57,155	867,227
	57,155	867,227
Transfer from reserve for tariff expenditures	(57,155)	(867,227)
Balance - end of year	—	—
Reserve for Tariff Expenditures		
Balance - beginning of year	566,648	1,433,875
Transfer to unappropriated accumulated income over expenditures	(57,155)	(867,227)
Balance - end of year	509,493	566,648
Accumulated Income over Expenditures	$ 509,493	$ 566,648

Legal Services Society

Notes to the Financial Statements

For the Year Ended March 31, 1990

The Society

The Society was established under the Legal Services Society Act on October 1, 1979 and is not an agent of the Crown. The objects of the Society are to ensure that:

(a) services ordinarily provided by a lawyer are afforded to individuals who would not otherwise receive them because of financial or other reasons; and

(b) education, advice and information about law are provided for the people of British Columbia.

1. Significant Accounting Policies

Basis of accounting:

These financial statements have been prepared in accordance with generally accepted accounting principles for non-profit organizations.

Specific accounting policies:

Furniture and equipment are recorded as operating expenditures at the time of acquisition.

Donated services are recorded at fair value.

2. Fixed Assets

Furniture and equipment purchased and expensed during the year amounted to $128,264 (1989 - $184,492).

3. Donated Services

The Province pays certain telephone and postage costs of the Society and provides audit services. In 1990, these costs amounted to $260,264 (1989 - $228,701).

4. Deferred Income

Deferred income represents the balance of certain grants received by the Society in 1990 that are to be applied against expenditures in 1991. Of the $206,274 shown as deferred income, $180,023 is the balance of moneys received from the Law Foundation for the automation of the Society's offices.

5. Related Parties

In 1990, the Society received 84% (1989 - 84%) of its income from the Province of British Columbia and 9% (1989 - 11%) of its income from the Law Foundation of British Columbia. The Society depends on funding from these two sources for the continuance of its operations.

Under cost sharing agreements approximately 50% of the Society's expenditures on legal aid are recoverable by the Province of British Columbia from the Government of Canada.

6. Commitments

The Society has the following commitments under long-term leases for its office premises:

1991	$354,132
1992	274,644
1993	166,141
1994	137,309
1995	47,154
	$979,380

The Society's head office premises are provided at a reduced rent under an agreement between the City of Vancouver and Imbrook Properties Limited. The annual difference between the market value of the rent and the rent paid is approximately $249,000 (1989 - $228,000). These premises are provided under an agreement that expires on May 31, 1999.

7. Pension Plan

The Society and its employees contribute to the Municipal Superannuation Plan administered by the Superannuation Commission of the provincial government.

The plan is a defined benefit pension plan. The detail of the unfunded liability of the plan is described in the financial statements of the Municipal Superannuation Fund. The portion of the unfunded liability attributable to the Society is not determined by the actuary of the plan.

8. Comparative Figures

Certain of the 1989 figures have been restated to conform with the financial statement presentation adopted in 1990. These restatements have had no effect on the accumulated income over expenditures as previously reported.

Legal Information Services

The Legal Resource Centre is open to the public Monday to Friday 8:30 to 4:30

Introduction

People must know they have a legal right or responsibility before they can exercise or assume it. They also need to know when and how to access legal services.

For these reasons, the Legal Services Society provides a wide range of legal information services.

Legal information is regularly provided through our offices to people who are applying for legal aid. Legal education and information is also provided on a formal basis through the three programs within the Legal Information Services Department: the Library Services Program, the Schools Program, and the Public Legal Education Program.

Our approach to legal information is shaped by the following ideas:

- Studies have shown that people who are poor do not ask for legal remedies for 60 to 80 per cent of their legal problems. They may not even know that their problem has a legal component.
- Education and information can help people figure out if they do have a legal problem, which in turn has a legal solution. Education and information can also help people prevent a legal problem.
- When people identify that they have a legal problem, education and information services can help them get to the right place for the information or advice they need. They may be able to help themselves. Or they may need the help of a lawyer.
- The Legal Services Society is able to offer information, education and advice which lead to self-help. We are also able to offer legal aid. The two services — education and legal aid — are fully integrated.
- The Legal Services Society does not see its responsibilities for legal education and information as beginning — or ending — at the office door. The Society is committed to an approach that reaches out, through a community-based model, to provide varied responses to diverse needs.
- Community needs are best identified by the communities themselves, and community involvement is essential in meeting those needs. While centralized planning, administration, and coordination take place from head office, many of our programs are community-generated and community-based.

Library Services Program

The Legal Resource Centre

It's a typical morning on the Legal Resource Centre's Law Line. As soon as the calling period opens, the Law Line phones begin to ring.

The first caller's question is, "What is a stay of proceedings?" But as she talks it becomes clear that her information needs are more complex than that. Her husband, who has been charged with the sexual abuse of a young cousin, has been violent towards her and has finally left. She has three children and no custody or maintenance orders.

We refer her to our legal aid services, to Family Services of Greater Vancouver, Vancouver Incest and Sexual Abuse Centre (VISAC), and Battered Women's Support Services.

The next caller asks: "My husband and I want to agree to joint custody. Where can I find out more about it?" We recommend some relevant publications, and tell her that she and her husband can talk things over with a Family Court Counsellor.

The third caller of the day is a refugee. He has been in the country for ten days. He has no food and he needs a lawyer for a second refugee hearing. We refer him to the Food Bank and to our Gastown office where he can apply for legal aid for the hearing.

In addition to the Law Line callers, we have people who come in to our Resource Centre for help. A consumer who bought a used car four days ago asks if he can now get out of the deal. An executor wants to know what to do when a beneficiary named in a will has died. A welfare advocate needs a reference to a Manitoba case. A staff lawyer from one of our branch offices needs the details of a Supreme Court of Canada decision made the day before.

1989/1990 Legal Resource Centre Highlights

Legal questions — all shapes and sizes — demand the attention of the Legal Resource Centre staff on a daily basis. They range from straightforward legal questions to complex, emotional crises that have a legal component.

We respond to these needs in three main ways:

- We operate the *Law Line*, a telephone legal information service for the general public.
- We maintain a *law library* and provide reference services for the general public and for the Legal Services Society staff. Our collection places special emphasis on poverty law, native law, law and the disabled, legal literacy, and immigration law as it affects refugees. The collection contains 9,000 volumes for reference use as well as a circulating audio-visual library.
- We provide *funding for public libraries* across B.C. so that they can purchase legal materials. We also provide legal reference training. Our publications include a quarterly newsletter which alerts libraries to changes in legislation, new materials and legal referral services.

Audio-Visual Catalogue

This year we produced a new edition of our Audio-Visual Catalogue. The catalogue lists the 250 law-related audio-visual items that the Legal Resource Centre has available. This is a circulating collection available on two-week loan.

During this year demand for our audio-visual items rose by 50 per cent. The collection was used extensively by secondary school teachers, and by a range of community workers in transition houses, sexual assault crisis centres, native friendship centres and immigration groups.

You can receive a copy of the catalogue by writing to the Publications Clerk, Legal Services Society, Suite 300-1140 West Pender Street, Vancouver B.C. V6E 4G1.

Law Line

In 1989/90 the Legal Resource Centre staff responded to a total of 13,088 questions. Of these, 11,821 were inquiries through the Law Line, an average of 10.8 calls an hour.

Grants

Under its public libraries program, the Legal Resource Centre made grants of $36,000 to 42 libraries, serving 95 communities throughout B.C. A focus of our grant program was to initiate the development of legal collections in small libraries across the province.

Cynthia Bartholomew and Lorraine Jang in the Legal Resource Centre

Workshops

The staff presented 26 workshops for 568 people, including librarians, community workers, Legal Services Society staff and the general public. The topics we chose depended on the needs identified by participants and any new legislation introduced. Some topics were: Introduction to Legal Research, Consumer Law, Foreclosures, Young Offenders Act, Divorce update, and the Family Relations Act.

Joint ventures

Representatives from the Legal Resource Centre were also involved with an initiative of the Public Legal Education Association of Canada (PLEAC) in consultations about national standards of the gathering of statistics, training, and standards of service.

In association with the B.C. Library Association, the Legal Resource Centre continued its work on intellectual freedom, contributing to a forthcoming kit on the topic.

Schools Program

The Schools Program aims to provide education about the law to school students in B.C. We work to ensure that law-related principles are included in curricula at all grade levels, and to provide teachers with appropriate materials and training.

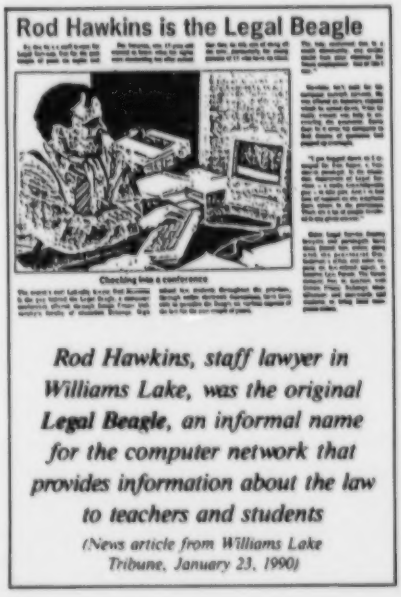
Our main audience is British Columbia school teachers and their students. We also work closely with other educational and legal bodies, and with government departments, to promote and develop relevant law-related education.

Through providing resources and training for teachers, we aim to ensure that all school children in B.C. are able:

- to understand the law and legal process so that they can exercise their rights and assume their responsibilities
- to identify and prevent or avoid potential legal problems
- to know when and how to obtain legal services
- to help themselves resolve their legal problems
- to participate effectively in a democratic society

If you are a teacher, you may be interested in our following resources:

- *Legal Perspectives*. This is a lively bi-monthly magazine that provides B.C. teachers with current information on topical legal issues. An annual subscription is free within B.C. and $10 out of province.


Rod Hawkins is the Legal Beagle

Checking into a conference

Rod Hawkins, staff lawyer in Williams Lake, was the original Legal Beagle, an informal name for the computer network that provides information about the law to teachers and students

(News article from Williams Lake Tribune, January 23, 1990)

- Resource materials. The Schools Program has an extensive list of appealing print materials on law-related issues, produced especially for schools. Contact the Society for a Publications Catalogue.
- Workshops on a variety of legal topics. Contact the Schools Program to find out what topics are being covered during the current school year.
- Our Legal Resource Centre has a wide range of relevant materials. In particular, you may want to use our audio-visual collection (see p. 16).

1989/90 Schools Program Highlights

Law-related education

This year we have been particularly involved in the revision of the Law 12 curriculum, hosting meetings of the Ministry of Education's working and advisory groups, and providing legal opinions.

We see law as an integral component of social studies throughout the grade levels, and this year we took part in discussions with the Ministry of Education about how this integration should occur.

We organized and participated in the Law-Related Education Group, which meets three to four times a year to discuss issues of interest. For example, in December we organized a workshop for the group on the Year 2000 report, and another one in March on the Law 12 curriculum.

Workshops

One of the aims of our workshops is to add liveliness and meaning to legal subjects so that teachers can bring educational excitement to their teaching of them.

The main theme areas for our 22 workshops were:

Law 12 — broad range of law as reflected in the new curriculum.

Consumer/Business Education — a range of legal subjects commencing with contracts and extending over both consumer protection and entrepreneurial business topics.

Family Management — family law, Young Offenders legislation as it affects the family, legal aspects of credit and money management, etc.

Social Studies 8-11 — history of development of legal principles integrated with our social history.

Intermediate Grades 7-8 — the first principles of the youth justice system.

We tailored the workshops to meet the teachers' different needs. For example, in the Law 12 workshops we included substantive law examples. In Consumer and Business education we presented the law in a practical way, as it relates to day-to-day living.

Publications

Courting Trouble dramatizes law-related principles relevant to the Grade 8 social studies curriculum. Two teenagers accidentally travel back to medieval times to get first-hand knowledge for their social studies class.

Introduction to the Corrections System in British Columbia and Canada, was developed for Law 12 students in cooperation with the B.C. Ministry of Solicitor General. It focuses on sentencing, corrections and parole.

The Program's magazine, *Legal Perspectives*, was published four times during the school year.

Each issue featured a series of articles on the particular themes of Ecology, Forensics, Love and the Law, and Native People's Access to Justice. Two regular columns in the magazine are Consumer Education and Court Report on recent court decisions. The issue, Native People's Access to Justice was developed with the involvement of First Nations people.

Public Legal Education

Nora Nadir in ¿Sanctuary? a powerful drama about refugees presented by Headlines Theatre Co. The production toured 16 B.C. communities with a grant from our PLE department

The goals of the Public Legal Education Program are to increase and improve access to the law and to encourage public involvement in the law. We do this by:

- developing and distributing material about the law
- providing short-term grants to community groups so they can design and deliver programs and produce PLE materials for their communities
- providing fieldworker services to community groups

The Public Legal Education Program produces materials on a variety of legal topics, particularly family, administrative and criminal law.

Our publications meet a wide range of needs. Some materials we develop solely for use by the staff in the Society's offices and funded agencies, or by the native courtworkers.

These materials try to meet specific information needs of legal aid clients. Staff give the material to the client and they review the information together. An example is a series of booklets dealing with common criminal matters, such as theft under $1,000. Each booklet reviews the law and outlines possible defences.

Community-based publications have a different purpose. They target people who lack access to the justice system because of economic, cultural, geographic or educational barriers. Typically, such a publication is developed in conjunction with a community group. Topics include battered women, family law and GAIN for handicapped.

The PLE program also provides small amounts of money to a variety of community groups throughout B.C. These groups then design and deliver public legal education to their community or to a particular target group.

PLE fieldworker services attempt to meet the training and other resource needs of community groups who receive grants, or who are otherwise engaged in legal education activities.

1989/1990 Public Legal Education Highlights

The Tenants Rights Coalition is made up of major tenant groups in the Lower Mainland and they wrote the ***Tenants Survival Guide*** *to help tenants understand their rights*

Grants to community projects

Projects for the year range from the rewriting of a tenants' rights booklet to the production of a video by people on welfare in downtown Vancouver, to family court advocacy projects in several B.C. towns.

The Public Legal Education Society (Peoples' Law School) received two grants, totalling $42,500. The first grant was to assist in the development of a multicultural program to meet the legal education needs and interests of multicultural communities in the province. The second grant was to develop easy-to-read brochures for people with moderate literacy skills.

Smaller grants contributed to specific projects. For example, the *Westcoast Reader*, a newspaper for ESL students (English as a Second Language), received $7,000 to finance a special insert on landlord and tenant law. The Surrey Delta Immigrant Services Society received $4,395 to support a training program for volunteer interpreters on translating legal terms.

Developing and distributing materials about the law

GAIN for Handicapped — How to Apply is an example of a community-based publication. Originally printed in June 1989, it quickly ran out and was reprinted again in September 1989. An indication of the demand is that 4,000 copies were distributed between October and December 1989.

The Legal Services Society distributes not only its own materials, but collaborates with other agencies to distribute key materials. For example, the *Tenant Survival Guide* was published this year by the Tenants Rights Coalition. The Law Foundation funded the staff; LSS-PLE program paid printing costs and helped with distribution.

We also worked in cooperation with the Attorney General's Literature Committee to distribute selected LSS pamphlets through the courthouse system. As well, we now work with the Public Legal Education Society to distribute its new brochures.

Fieldworker services

In 1989/90 the part-time fieldworker conducted 31 workshops in various B.C. locations, attended by a total of 607 people. Topics included seniors' benefits, welfare rights and GAIN benefits, employment law, legal survival skills for youth, and general advocacy skills for administrative law matters.

In January 1990 an additional full-time fieldworker was hired to focus efforts on development of family law projects and materials.

Plain language

Plain language initiatives remained a major focus of the program throughout the year.

The program sponsored training workshops in plain language for Legal Services Society staff and community groups, through the Canadian Law Information Council's Plain Language Centre. PLE fieldworker staff facilitate an ongoing Plain Language Working Group. The group is made up of representatives from throughout the province interested in plain language — including the private bar, government departments, community groups, editors, and other public legal education organizations.

Publications Branch

The Publications Branch produces print materials for all LSS departments as well as for community groups and other PLE agencies. With a coordinator, two editors and a graphic designer, the Branch works on all the stages of a publication's development from clarifying an idea to dealing with printers.

Development process

A major initiative of the Publications Branch during the year was the creation of a development process for all of its publications. The main purpose of this process is to identify and address problems in the early development stages.

The new process encourages people to clearly define the purpose of their proposed project and the problem it is addressing. This helps to identify obstacles that may slow down the production process. Most importantly, the development process addresses the issues of feasibility studies, field-testing, distribution and evaluation.

The Publications Branch is working on a *Guide to the Publications Development Process* which will be available to LSS offices, community groups and other PLE agencies.

Information about the law from the reader's point of view

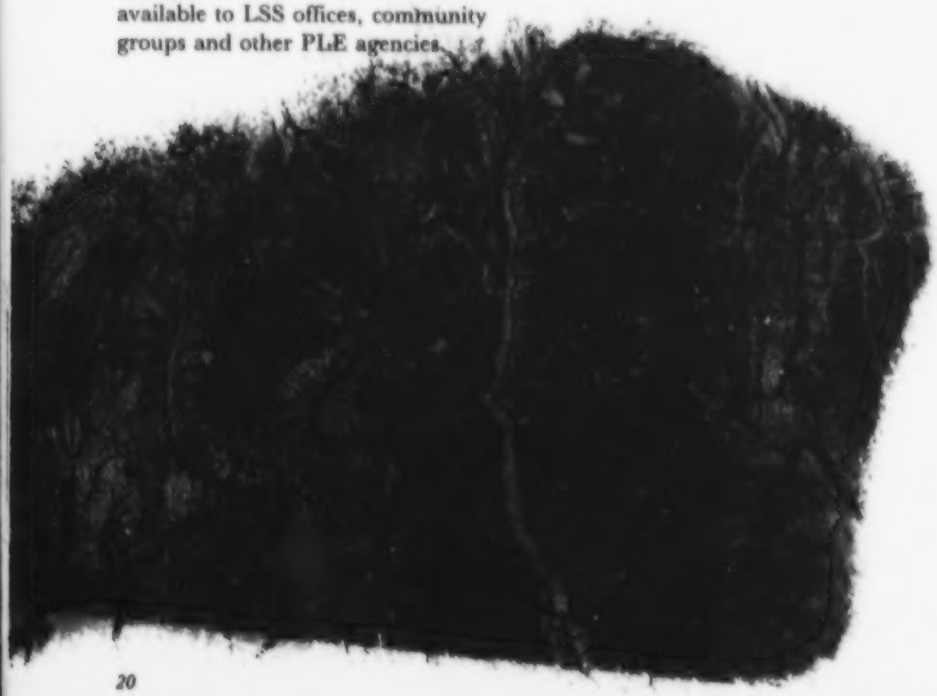
Plain language

All legal education material published by the Publications Branch is designed and edited using plain language guidelines. We ask many and varied questions about the intended audience for a publication. We try to pay attention to the reader's needs and points of view. Our goal is to make legal information as accessible as possible to any reader who could benefit from it. The Branch acts as a resource for community groups funded by the Legal Services Society who may have questions about plain language and design.

Publications Catalogue

The Society's Publications Catalogue contains a complete listing of print materials available from the Legal Services Society.

Free copies of the catalogue may be obtained by writing to:
Publications Clerk,
Legal Services Society,
Suite 300 - 1140 West Pender Street,
Vancouver B.C., V6E 4G1.



Native Programs

Introduction

The Native Programs Branch works to ensure that the legal services provided to native communities meet native people's needs. Native Programs — with a network of approximately 900 native communities and organizations in the province — recognizes the need for native autonomy and control in the delivery of legal services.

This involves returning the decision-making process to native people to resolve their own problems. The Native Programs Branch maintains that legal services for native people must be:

- accessible to native people
- designed to recognize native community control for the delivery of legal services to native people

These principles address the poor economic conditions and erosion of social relations in native communities. They also reflect an appreciation for how these factors are directly related to the high rate of contact native people have with the Canadian judicial system.

It is with an understanding of these complexities that Native Programs ensures resources are made available to native people through native community law offices and native community groups.

The Hazelton office, opened in 1977

Native community law offices

Each native community law office is directed by a native community board. In some cases these boards are elected from the membership or appointed by the band council. The boards identify needs, establish priorities, and ensure that they have the staff to provide the service.

The offices act as area directors for legal aid coverage. This means that they take legal aid applications. They also provide comprehensive public legal education programs. Community development is also an ongoing component of the work of native community law offices. Where necessary, the offices provide courtwork services to people in custody and other people who need them.

Community-based public legal education

The Legal Services Society recognizes that native people themselves are the best providers of public legal education programs for native communities. It therefore facilitates the provision of public legal education through the native community law offices or through small grants to native communities throughout the province.

The kinds of public legal education provided include information about:

- matrimonial property on a reserve
- Indian status and band membership
- creditor rights in Indian real property
- family violence and community-based dispute resolution
- community development
- the promotion of civil and human rights
- an understanding of aboriginal and traditional rights

1989/1990 Native Programs Branch Highlights

Office news

- Work continued on *Unlocking Aboriginal Justice*. This is a major initiative by the Gitksan-Wet'suwet'en Education Society in conjunction with the Smithers Indian Friendship Centre and the Upper Skeena Counselling and Legal Assistance Society. The proposal outlines ways in which the justice system of the Gitskan and Wet'suwet'en could be integrated with that of British Columbia and Canada without compromising the values of either society.

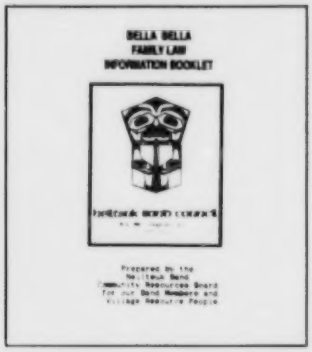
  The three sponsoring groups actively pursued funding for the first year development phase of the project. They aim to have one community facilitator working in the Wet'suwet'en villages and another in the Gitksan villages.

- Native people of Carrier Sekani ancestry in the Prince George area received duty counsel at family courts through the Carrier Sekani Tribal Council family court duty counsel project.

- Work continued on the development of a native community law office in Fort St. James, which is scheduled to open in 1990.

Public legal education projects

During the year Native Programs was able to provide native communities with $71,258 for 21 public legal education projects.



Bella Bella Family Law Information Booklet prepared by the Heiltsuk Band Community Resources Board for band members and village resource people

Here are some examples of the kinds of projects that were funded:

- The Ingenika Tribal Administration in Prince George developed a project involving awareness of personal rights. The purpose of the project was to advise band members, 98 per cent of whom are unemployed, of their legal rights when dealing with the Ministry of Social Services and Housing. Two issues of concern were child apprehension and the right to income assistance.

- The Liard River Indian Reserve #3 at Watson Lake prepared a pamphlet on Bill C-31 for the women of Lower Post. This information was also made available to native women in the surrounding areas of Watson Lake, Fireside, Good Hope Lake and Fort Ware.

- The Fraser Lake Indian Band at Fort Fraser initiated a native sexual abuse awareness program. The program educated people on the legal aspects of child sexual abuse and the long-term effects of this abuse.

- In Vancouver, an urban native group developed informational material for native tenants, describing tenants rights and outlining methods for avoiding or resolving common landlord/tenant problems.

Publications

- The Native Programs Branch provides publications that address the legal issues native communities have identified as being of concern to them. They include six native law handbooks about issues on reserve, and a broad range of pamphlets.

- During the year the Branch published *Separation and the Family Home on Reserve*.

Resource development

- Work continued with the Schools Program to develop Haida materials for use in Social Studies 9 courses.

ICBC project

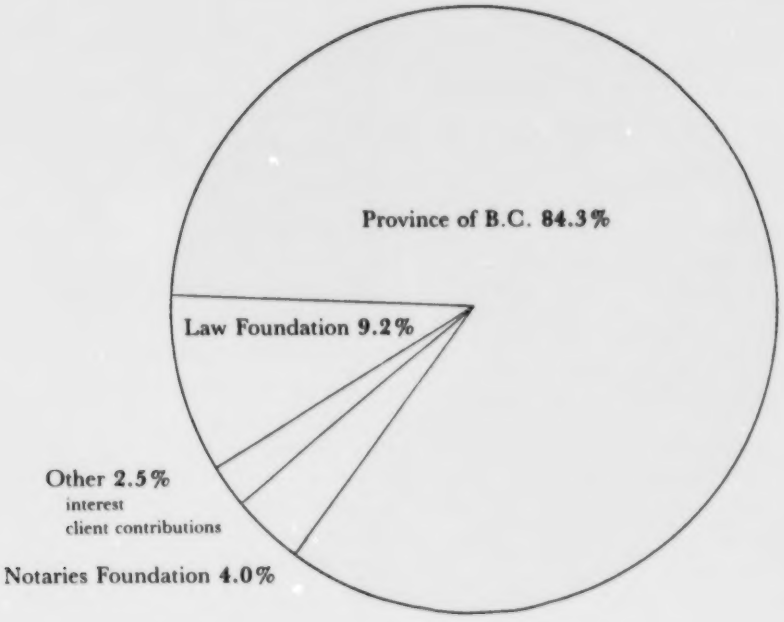
- During the year work continued on the development of informational materials in cooperation with ICBC. These materials, which focus on the benefits available under the Insurance Act, will assist native people to claim what they are entitled to.

Financial Information

For the year ended March 31, 1990.

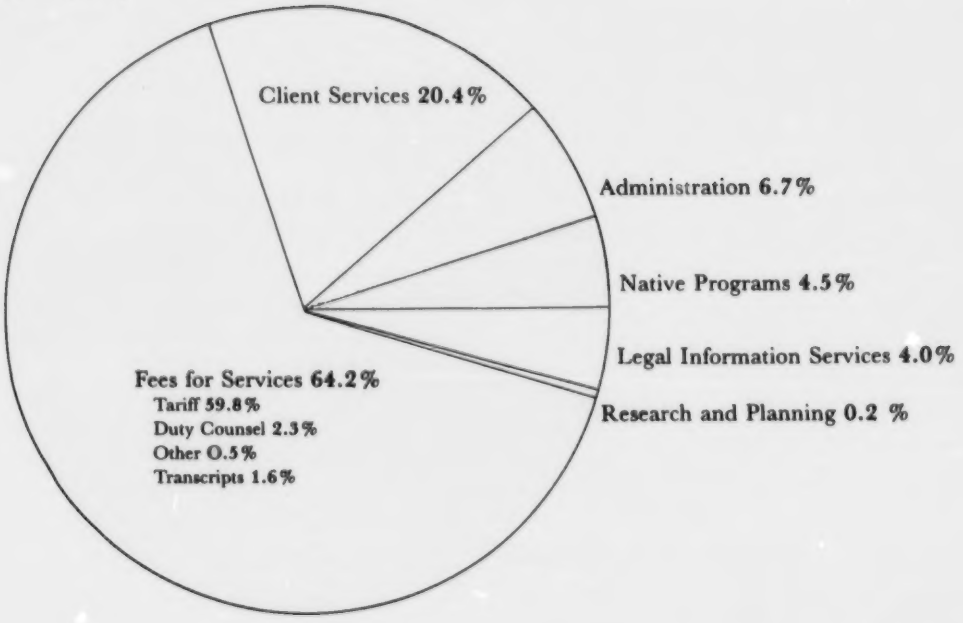
Income

$33,091,668
(*1988-1989* $26,213,107)



Expenses

$33,148,823
(*1988-1989* $27,080,334)



List of Offices

Note: Addresses are correct as of November 1990. For current information, check your phone book.

Legal Services Society Branch Offices

Abbotsford
Prison Legal Services
2406 Montrose Avenue
V2S 3S9 853-8712

Burnaby
344-5021 Kingsway
V5H 4A5 437-4432

Campbell River
208-1040 Shoppers Row
V9W 2C6 287-9521

Chilliwack
9315 Nowell Street
V2P 4V8 792-7264

Dawson Creek
1101-B-103rd Avenue
V1G 2G8 782-5911/2

Fort St. John
9911-104 Street
V1J 6B9 785-5674/5

Kamloops Regional Law Centre
510-175 Second Avenue
V2C 5W1 374-7777

Kelowna
1262 St. Paul Street
V1Y 2C9 763-8804

Langley Paralegal Project
201-20189-56th Avenue
V3A 3Y6 530-5811

Nanaimo
Upper Floor
10 Esplanade
V9R 4Y7 755-2550

Nelson
550 Stanley Street
V1L 1N2 352-3147

John Webb, Linda Zillwood, Joan Carl and Rob Fredrickson from the Chilliwack office

Prince George
302-1488 Fourth Avenue
V2L 4Y2 562-4445

Prince Rupert
737 West 2nd Avenue
V8J 1H4 627-1364

Surrey
102-15225-104th Avenue
V3R 6Y8 584-8535

Vancouver
2-195 Alexander Street
V6A 1N3 687-1831

Williams Lake
208-197 North 2nd Avenue
V2G 1Z5 392-2941

Community Law Offices

Abbotsford Community Services Society
2406 Montrose Avenue
V2S 3S9 859-2755
or toll free 530-3514

Fort Nelson Paralegal Project
Bag 399
V0C 1RO 774-6707

Kootenay Community Law Centre
202 - 1113 Baker Street
Cranbrook
V5C 1A7 489-3375

Maple Ridge/Pitt Meadows Legal Services
22701 - 119th Avenune
Maple Ridge
V2S 8S5 467-3011

Nanaimo Community Assistance Society
Upper Floor - 10 Esplanade
V9R 4Y7 755-2550

Penticton Legal Services
103 - 304 Martin Street
V2A 5K4 493-0210

Powell River Legal Services
4746 Joyce Avenue
V8A 3B6 485-9871

Quesnel Human Rights & Civil Liberties Association
283 Barlow Avenue
V2J 2B9 992-8391

Westminster Community Legal Services Society
805 - 12th Street
New Westminster
V3M 4K2 524-0381

The Law Centre Association of **Victoria**
3rd floor - 1221 Broad Street
V8W 2A4 388-4516

Native Community Law Offices and Funded Friendship Centres

Burns Lake Yinkadinee Keyakh Law Centre Society
PO Box 8000
412 Government Street
V0J 1E0 692-7534

Carrier Sekani Tribal Council
Native Family Duty Court Counsel
1460 - 6th Avenue
Prince George
V2C 3N2 562-3591

Fort St. John Indian Friendship Centre
10208 - 95th Avenue
V1J 1J2 785-8566

Haida Counselling and Legal Assistance Society
PO Box 37 Skidegate Village
Queen Charlotte City
V0T 1S0 559-8811

and

PO Box 130
Block N, Lot 7
Masset Reserve #1
Masset
V0T 1M0 626-3925

L'ax Ghels Community Law Centre Society
3313 Kalum Street
Terrace
V8G 2N7 635-2133

Nicola Valley Native Community Legal Assistance Society
1955 Quilchena Avenue
Bag 4400
Merritt
V0K 2B0 378-6112

Port Alberni Friendship Centre
3555 4th Avenue
V9Y 4H3 723-8281

Upper Skeena Counselling and Legal Assistance Society
Omenica Street
PO Box 130
Hazelton
V0J 1Y0 842-5218

Wedzen Qua Community Law Office
1235 Main Street
PO Box 2118
Smithers
V0J 2N0 847-2600

Clockwise (top) Debbie O'Leary, Phil Kotyk, Sue Jensen, June Coltman and Pat Malyk in the Prince George office

Area Directors

Abbotsford
Chris Maddock
Barrister and Solicitor
2406 Montrose Avenue
Abbotsford
V2S 3S9 859-7681

Burns Lake
Warren Chapman
Barrister and Solicitor
412 Government Street
Burns Lake
V0J 1E0 692-7534

Chetwynd
Glen Stasiuk
Barrister and Solicitor
#202 - 4713 51st Street
Chetwynd
V0C 1J0 788-3113

Cranbrook
Cathy Mahon
Kootenay Community Law Centre
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Cranbrook
V5C 1A7 489-3375

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Yvonne Pink
Barrister and Solicitor
209 - 255 Canada Avenue
Duncan
V9L 1T6 748-6565

Fort Nelson
Olive Loberg
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V0C 1R0 774-6707

Golden
Glen Ewan
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PO Box 429
Golden
V0A 1H0 344-5258

Hazelton
Upper Skeena Counselling and Legal Assistance Society
Omenica Street
PO Box 130
Hazelton
V0J 1Y0 842-5218

Invermere
Barnim Kluge
Barrister and Solicitor
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Invermere
V0A 1K0 342-4447

Kaslo
Tom Humphries
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Kaslo
V0G 1M0 353-2292

Ladysmith
David O'Connor
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Ladysmith
V0R 2E0 254-7141

Langley
Langley Paralegal Project
201 - 20189-56th Avenue
Langley
V3A 3Y6 530-5811

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R. Kendel Kaser
Barrister and Solicitor
416 Main Street
PO Box 1449
Lillooet
V0K 1V0 256-7519

Maple Ridge
Maple Ridge/Pitt Meadows Legal Services
22701 - 119th Avenue
Maple Ridge
V2X 8S5 467-3011

Masset
Haida Counselling and Legal Assistance Society
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Masset
V0T 1M0 626-3925

Merritt
Nicola Valley Community Legal Office
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Merritt
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Nakusp
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New Westminster
Westminster Community Legal Services Society
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New Westminster
V3M 4K2 524-0381

North Vancouver
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Barrister and Solicitor
102 - 145 West 15th Street
North Vancouver
V7M 1R9 980-7000

Parksville
Steven Barnwell
Barrister and Solicitor
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Parksville
V0R 2S0 248-5751

Penticton
Penticton Legal Services
103 - 304 Martin Street
Penticton
V2A 5K4 493-0210

Powell River
Gary Cowell
Powell River Legal Services
4746 Joyce Avenue
Powell River
V8A 3B6 485-9871

Quesnel
Quesnel Community Law Office
283 Barlow Avenue
Quesnel
V2J 2B9 992-8391

Revelstoke
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Haida Counselling and Legal Assistance Society
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